

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
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INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 4189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CH, CM
SUBJ: COMMENT ON MASIE VISIT TO PRC

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 4188, (B) YAOUNDE 4038 (EXDIS)

1. SPANISH CHARGE INFORMED DCM THAT ON SEPTEMBER 14 MASIE LEFT RIO MUNI FOR FIRST TIME IN ALMOST TWO YEARS TO VISIT MALABO AND THAT LAGES (EQUATORIAL GUINEAN AIRLINE) PLANE HAD GONE FROM MALABO BY WAY OF DOUALA TO REFUEL IN ORDER TO TAKE CUBAN BODYGUARD FROM BATA TO MALABO. ON 19TH IT WAS LEARNED THAT RUMOR HAD IT MASIE HAD GONE TO PRC, BUT UNTIL PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL A) NO CONFIRMATION WAS POSSIBLE.

2. COMMENT: MASIE'S LAST TRIP OUT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA (E.G.) WAS IN 1975 TO ATTEND THE OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA WHEN HIS GOOD FRIEND IDI AMIN WAS INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF THE OAU. FOR SOME TIME IT HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT MASIE WAS SICK AND WAS EXPECTED TO GO TO THE PRC OR SOVIET UNION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT BE CONFIRMED THAT PRESENT TRIP INVOLVES SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION. MASIE IS SOMEWHAT PARANOID ABOUT HIS REAL AND IMAGINED ENEMISE. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE UNUSUAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS DESCRIBED REFTEL A. HE MUST BE AWARE OF
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WHAT HAPPENED TO NKRUMAH ON A SIMILAR TRIP. THEREFORE, HE IS EITHER SECURE IN THE KNOLEDGE THAT HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY ELIMINATED HIS ENEMIES OR THE INDUCEMENTS, MEDICAL OR OTHERWISE, MUST HAVE BEEN COMPELLING TO FORCE HIM TO BRING HIMSELF TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN EXTENDED TRIP. THE SPANISH CHARGE SPECULATES MASIE IS LOOKING FOR CHINESE AID, SINCE THE SOVIETS ARE CONTRI-BUTING NOTHING.

3. UNLESS HE ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT, (BONIFACIO) NGUEMA ESONO NCHAMA, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER DELEGATE TO THE PRESIDENCY IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, WAS PROBABLY LEFT IN CHARGE OF E.G. AS HE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RUNNING THINGS IN MALABO DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT. ALSO PROBABLY INVOLVED, EITHER AT HOME OR ON THE TRIP, IS (FELICIANO) MATHO OBAMA NSUE MANGUE, FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL POLICY IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY AND NOW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. BOTH ARE FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL MONGONO FANG FACTION CURRENTLY IN CONTROL OF E.G. AND BOTH ARE, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN MALABO, PRO SOVIET. WHILE IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO MAKE TROUBLE IN MASIE'S ABSENCE, ALL REMAINING E.G. ARE PREBABLY TOO SCARED TO START ANYTHING.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT AHIDJO IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE PRC ON/A OCTOBER 3 (REFTEL B). WHILE AHIDJO IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE HORN, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE VEING USED BY THE PRC IN THEIR RUNNING BATTLE WITH THE SOVIETS.
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